

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ALGIER 02492 261229Z
ACTION OC-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 STE-01 MED-05 CTME-00
CCO-00 /035 W

-----120334 270013Z /75

R 261138Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
TO AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9043
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS ALGIERS 2492

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: APOU, ATRN, AMED, ASUP, TBIO, PDIP
SUBJECT: ALGERIAN CUSTOMS OPERATIONS

FRANKFURT FOR POUCH CONTROL OFFICER AND HEALTH UNIT

BONN FOR RCO

TUNIS FOR RSO AND RMO

REF: A) FRANKFURT 6698 (NOTAL)

1. ALGERIAN AIRPORT CUSTOMS OFFICE CLOSES DOWN AND CEASES TO
FUNCTION FROM 1300 THURSDAY UNTIL 0800 SATURDAY (LOCAL TIME), THE
ISLAMIC HOLY WEEKEND.

2. ANY AND ALL AIR CARGO, DIPLOMATIC AND OTHERWISE RECEIVED
DURING THIS PERIOD IS HELD UNTIL NEXT BUSINESS DAY. THERE IS
ABSOLUTELY NOBODY PRESENT WITH AUTHORITY TO RELEASE. ONLY
PASSENGERS' HAND CARRIED LUGGAGE PASSES THROUGH CUSTOMS DURING
THIS PERIOD.

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PAGE 02 ALGIER 02492 261229Z

3. THIS MEANS: ANY AND ALL POUCHES RECEIVED IN ALGIERS AFTER 1300
HOURS LOCAL (AND OCCASIONALLY EARLIER ON THURSDAYS) WILL NOT BE
RELEASED FOR AT LEAST A MINIMUM OF 36 HOURS.

4. TO PICK UP A POUCH, A PROCESS INVOLVING NINE STEPS IS REQUIRED
TO SECURE THE RELEASE. THIS TAKES ABOUT FOUR HOURS AND CAN TAKE

SEVERAL DAYS FOR VARIOUS REASONS. WE OFTEN ENCOUNTER SIMPLE HARASSMENT FROM THE CUSTOMS OFFICIALS. SO, IN REALITY, IT TAKES 36-48 HOURS TO RELEASE A POUCH, AT THE MINIMUM, IF THE POUCH HAS COME IN AT THE BEGINNING OF THE WEEKEND.

5. A RECENT AIR POUCH FROM FRANKFURT (AWB NO. 220-8813-0206) REQUIRED ABOUT 90 HOURS TO RELEASE. THIS POUCH ARRIVED AFTER 1300 (LOCAL) ON A THURSDAY. THE CUSTOMS INSPECTORS COULD NOT ACCURATELY "READ" THE IMPRESSION ON THE POUCH SEAL. HARASSMENT THAT REQUIRED TWO DAYS TO OVERCOME.

6. WHILE WE WILL ENDEAVOR TO FACILITATE THINGS AT THIS END, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT SPECIAL AIR POUCHES BE NOT (REPEAT NOT) SENT TO ALGIERS ON THURSDAYS UNLESS LENGTHY STAYS IN VERY WARM WAREHOUSE AT ALGIERS AIRPORT ARE ACCEPTABLE.HAYNES

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: APOU, ATRN, AMED, ASUP, TBIO, PDIP
To: FRANKFURT
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